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UNIMARC Manual: Bibliographic Format Updated Edition and Future Developments

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1. Introduction

UNIMARC Manual: Bibliographic Format, 2nd edition published in 1994 was updated three times: in 1996, 1998 and 2000. The updates incorporate mainly additions of the groups of content designators for a particular type of material, additions to the format to assure its consistency with the development of other UNIMARC formats, mainly UNIMARC/Authorities, and corrections and additions of minor, but not less relevant, kind, like additions of code values, notes and explanations, as well as examples. Each update necessarily caters for errata and minor changes.

1st Update, 1996 introduced mainly content designators for antiquarian material, and 2nd Update, 1998 for electronic resources. The 3rd Update, 2000 introduced a broad range of content designators and coded values not linked to a particular type of material. These are: additional coded values and subfields for electronic resources and antiquarian material; new fields 016 ISRC (International Standard Recording Code), 035 Other Systems Control Numbers together with 886 Data Converted from Source Format; new subfield for Form Subdivision in 60- Subject Analysis Block fields together with the new field 608 Form, Genre or Physical Characteristics Heading. Also included is a new field 730 Name - Intellectual Responsibility for recoding the author's name which form does not follow any particular cataloguing rules with the aim to enable the mapping, primarily, between UNIMARC and Dublin Core metadata elements DC.Creator and DC.Contributor. The 3rd Update also contains new edition of appendices A: Language Codes, B: Country Codes, C: Relator Codes, H: Cataloguing Rules and Formats Codes, I: Table of Values, J: Character Sets, K: Documentation to Accompany Exchange Records, M: Bibliography and N: Useful Addresses.

2. 4th Update, 2002

The new update will be the result of the two year period during which new proposals were received either from the members of the PUC or UNIMARC users. This update will include:

- review of mandatory fields in a UNIMARC bibliographic record with specifying mandatory fields for certain types of records like records of text, cartographic material, electronic resources etc., as well as mandatory fields for records that are result of the retrospective conversion; there is also a change of status for some fields, e.g. the status of 304 Notes Pertaining to Title and Statement of Responsibility is changed to mandatory for records of electronic resources; the same applies to fields 856 Electronic Location and Access and 337 System Requirements Note;

- addition of coded values in coded data fields, e.g. DVD-Video in 115 Visual Projections, Videorecordings and Motion Pictures, electronic resource in 105 Textual Material, Illustration Codes;

- 856 $g URN subfield is made obsolete and the URNs is added to $u URL subfield for consistency with MARC21;

- addition of new subfield $c Locality (ISO) in 102 Place of Publication or Production to code the locality of publication in ISO 3166-2 standard, and subfield $2 Source of Non-ISO Code to record the source of the code used in the present subfield $b; lists of codes should be registered with the PUC and will be recorded in Appendix G;

- addition of new subfields in the field 327 Contents Note to record tables of contents of the item which are provided by vendors either as covers in image mode or the table of contents in text mode;

- addition of a subfield $3 Authority Record Number to 6-- classification fields for linking the field to the corresponding classification record; this corresponds to the $3 used elsewhere to link headings to authority records;

- addition of the new fields for headings for Trademark in 7-- Intellectual Responsibility Block and 60- Subject Headings: 716 and 616; due to the introduction of the new type of identity which does not come under the scope of intellectual responsibility as presently defined, redefinition of the name and definition of the 7-- block is made;

- revision of content designators for music: Christina Magliano will speak more on that later today;

- revision of relator codes for old prints, motion pictures, music etc.;

- addition of full record examples to Appendix L.

The direction of development across the borders of libraries' domain can be seen in adding to UNIMARC bibliographic format content designators of the two types. The first type includes new fields for standard numbers, note and codes for subject classification scheme for recording in bibliographic records information used in the book trade in order to facilitate reuse of data and to aid discovery. Alan Dunskin will speak more about that later today. The second type of content designators are new coded values in 116 Graphics and 117 Three Dimensional Artefacts and Motion Pictures together with revision of relationship fields in 4-- Linking Entry Block applying to all kind of historical and artistic material, present not only in libraries but also in archives, museums etc.

3. Pending Proposals

- additional subfields for 675 Universal Decimal Classification field due to the review process of the UNIMARC/Classification Format;

- new field 852 Location and Call Number to be updated for consistency with UNIMARC/Holdings Format; Rosa Galvao will speak about the development of this format later today;
- revision of Record Label and content designators for serials for consistency with the new edition of ISBD(CR) – Continuing Resources and ISSN Cataloguing Rules.

4. Future Developments

- promote mapping between Dublin Core and UNIMARC by pointing to best practices;

- promote implementation of ISO 23950 and Bath Profile standards which recognize UNIMARC as one of the carrier formats next to MARC21, Dublin Core and SUTRS;

- secure resources to negotiate the migration of UNIMARC formats from ISO 2709 to XML based exchange formats: this work should be carried out in conjunction with the booktrade and the MARC21 community;

- continue the study of UNIMARC and its further development in the context of the FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records) and FRANAR (Functional Requirements and Numbering for Authority Records);

- follow up developments of IFLA standards, as well as standardisation processes in related international organisations and bodies like ISO/TC46, ICA, IAML, ISSN, ISBN, MARBI, booktrade (ONIX), CERL etc.

Summary

Three updates of the UNIMARC Manual: Bibliographic Format, 2nd edition are briefly described. Follows description of the 4th Update to be published in 2002. Apart from the additions of new coded values, fields and subfields within the libraries' needs, a new direction of development towards the booktrade, and archives and museums domains is emphasized. Pending proposals are mentioned too.

Future developments are described: they follow developments of IFLA and other related bodies' standards in telecomunication and technology, and in booktrade.